UNITED
NATIONS

E

Economic and Social Council

Distr.
GENERAL

E/AC.51/1991/1
19 March 1991

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMITTEE FOR PROGRAMME AND CO-ORDINATION
Thirty-first session
13 May-7 June 1991
Item 2 of the provisional agenda

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Provisional agenda

1. Election of officers.

2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.

3. Programme questions:

   (a) Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993;

   (b) Programme performance of the United Nations;

   (c) Statements of programme budget implications and procedures for the use and operation of the contingency fund;

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4. Co-ordination questions:

   (a) Report of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination and preparations for the Joint Meetings of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination;

   (b) Implementation of the system-wide medium-term plan for women and development;

5. Reports of the Joint Inspection Unit.

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6. Provisional agenda for the thirty-second session of the Committee.

7. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its thirty-first session.

Annotations

1. Election of officers

At its thirtieth session, the Committee elected a Chairman, three Vice-Chairmen and a Rapporteur. At its twenty-fourth session, the Committee decided that, henceforth, the post of Chairman, as well as the other posts on the bureau, should rotate annually among the regional groups. At its twenty-fifth session, the Committee reaffirmed that decision and adopted the following pattern of rotation for the post of Chairman: (a) Group of African States; (b) Group of Eastern European States; (c) Group of Latin American and Caribbean States; (d) Group of Western European and other States; and (e) Group of Asian States. The Committee decided that rotation according to the above pattern had begun in 1984 with the Group of African States. However, it agreed, on an exceptional basis, to select the Chairman of the Committee in 1986 from the Group of Western European and other States, in 1987 from the Group of Asian States and in 1988 from the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States. In 1989, the Committee returned to the agreed pattern of rotation and elected the Chairman of the twenty-ninth session from the Group of African States. At its thirty-first session, the Committee may wish to select the Chairman from the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States in accordance with the agreed pattern of rotation for the post of Chairman. The Committee also agreed that each year the post of Rapporteur should be occupied by a member of the regional group that had occupied the post of Chairman the previous year.

2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

Pursuant to paragraph 2 (e) of Economic and Social Council resolution 1979/41 and paragraph 2 of General Assembly resolution 34/50, the Committee submitted to the Council and the Assembly for their review the provisional agenda for its thirtieth session, together with the list of documentation requested. The present provisional agenda and list of documentation also take into account decisions taken by the Council and the Assembly since the last session of the Committee.

3. Programme questions

(a) Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993

Pursuant to its terms of reference (Council resolution 2008 (LX), annex), the Committee will consider the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993. In accordance with the Regulations Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation, the Secretary-General shall provide the Committee and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions with advance copies of the proposed programme budget by the end of April of the year preceding the budgetary

period; the Committee shall prepare a report on the proposed programme budget, containing its programme recommendations and its general assessment of the related resource proposals; and it shall receive a statement by the Secretary-General on the programme budget implications of its recommendations.

It will be recalled that in accordance with the new budget process established by the General Assembly in resolution 41/213, the Committee, at its thirtieth session, considered an outline of the proposed programme budget and submitted conclusions and recommendations to the Assembly. In resolution 45/255, the Assembly decided on a preliminary estimate of resources for the budget and the size of the contingency fund. The Assembly reaffirmed that the outline of the budget was in a developmental period, that its methodology required greater improvements, transparency and accuracy and that the whole exercise should be applied with flexibility in accordance with Assembly resolutions 41/213 and 42/211.

Also in resolution 45/255, the Assembly took note of the proposals of the Secretary-General and the views expressed by Member States on priorities and endorsed the recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination thereon, and requested the Secretary-General to pay particular attention to them in preparing the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

Documentation

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993 (in fascicle form)

(b) Programme performance of the United Nations

At its thirtieth session, the Committee noted that improvements in the programme performance report were, to a large extent, dependent upon improvements in the format and presentation of the programme budget. The Committee agreed to revert to the question at its thirty-first session in the context of its consideration of the Secretary-General's proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993. In resolution 45/253, section II, the General Assembly took note of the report of the Secretary-General on the programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 1988-1989, endorsed the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination thereon and requested the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session, through the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination at its thirty-first session and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, a report on the methodology for monitoring and reporting the programme performance of the United Nations.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the methodology for monitoring and reporting the programme performance of the United Nations (A/46/)

(c) Statements of programme budget implications and procedures for the use and operation of the contingency fund

At its twenty-sixth session, the Committee recommended that the Economic and Social Council, starting with its first regular session of 1987, should, for a trial period of two years, be provided with statements of programme budget implications of the draft resolutions before the Council in the format established for such statements submitted to the General Assembly. The Secretary-General was requested to report to the Assembly at its forty-fourth session, through the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination at its twenty-ninth session, on the experience gained during the two-year period in order for the Assembly to review the situation. In resolution 1986/51 the Economic and Social Council welcomed the recommendation of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination.

At its twenty-eighth session, the Committee, when considering the proposed revisions to the medium-term plan, recalled section II, paragraph 7, of General Assembly resolution 38/227 A, containing guidelines for the provision of statements of programme budget implications. The Committee requested the Secretary-General to present a report to the Committee at its twenty-ninth session on how the full application of those guidelines would operate, including methodology and the implications.

At its twenty-ninth session, the Committee recommended that the procedure for the provision of statements of programme budget implications should be reviewed during the implementation of the programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991. The Committee recalled that the procedures for the use and operation of the contingency fund would also be subject to a review and recommended that the Secretary-General submit a single report on the two reviews to the General Assembly through the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination at its thirty-first session.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the review of the procedure for the provision of statements of programme budget implications and for the use and operation of the contingency fund (A/46/)

(d) Evaluation

At its twenty-ninth session, the Committee considered a progress report on the in-depth evaluation of the disarmament programme and, taking into account the importance of evaluating political programmes, the Committee recommended that a final decision on the evaluation report on the disarmament programme be postponed until its thirtieth session. At its thirtieth session, the Committee recommended that it undertake the evaluation of the disarmament programme at its thirty-first session, in 1991, taking into account relevant conclusions and recommendations made at its twenty-ninth session, relevant regulations and rules governing programme planning and budgeting, as well as observations of the Secretary-General for the evaluation of programmes in the political area contained in paragraphs 47 to 57 of document E/AC.51/1990/3.

At its twenty-ninth session, the Committee noted that the report on the development issues and policies programme of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) was a review of the setting of priorities and requested that an in-depth evaluation of that programme be carried out and submitted to it at its thirty-first session. The Committee also requested the Secretary-General to submit to it at its thirtieth session a progress report on the subject. At its thirtieth session, the Committee recommended that the final evaluation report should take into account all relevant assessments and self-evaluations. The report should be analytical and provide action-oriented proposals to strengthen programme design and delivery. The report should include (a) an analysis of the programmatic implications of the conclusions and recommendations of the relevant reports, including the contribution of the development issues and policies programme of ECA to the implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action and the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990; (b) a summary of actions on those reports by intergovernmental bodies; (c) an assessment of all subsequent follow-up activities; (d) an examination of the effects of extrabudgetary resources on the priorities and on the achievement of objectives; and (e) conclusions and recommendations, including proposals for the modification of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 where appropriate.

At its twenty-ninth session, the Committee recommended that the in-depth evaluation to be scheduled for consideration in 1993 would be for the programme on international protection of and assistance to refugees. The General Assembly in its resolution 44/194, section IV, approved that recommendation. The Committee will have before it a progress report on the in-depth evaluation of the programme on the international protection of and assistance to refugees.

At its twenty-ninth session, the Committee recommended that the review of the programme on development issues and policies, which would examine the extent to which the recommendations of the Committee had been implemented, should be undertaken for consideration at its thirty-first session. In this connection, the Committee decided that at its thirty-first session it would further consider whether future reviews should be prepared two rather than three years after each in-depth evaluation.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the in-depth evaluation of the disarmament programme (E/AC.51/1991/)

Report of the Secretary-General on the in-depth evaluation of the programme on development issues and policies of the Economic Commission for Africa (E/AC.51/1991/3)

Progress report of the Secretary-General on the in-depth evaluation of the programme on the international protection of and assistance to refugees (E/AC.51/1991/4)

Review of the programme on development issues and policies (E/AC.51/1991/5)

4. Co-ordination questions

The attention of the Committee is drawn to General Assembly resolution 45/253, section IV, in which the Assembly emphasized the importance of the medium-term plan, in particular its introduction, as an instrument for co-ordination, in accordance with regulation 3.7 of the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation.

(a) Report of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination and preparations for the Joint Meetings of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination

In accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 2008 (LX), the Committee will have before it the annual overview report of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination for 1990. In resolution 45/254 B, the General Assembly endorsed the relevant conclusions and recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination in the field of co-ordination; it endorsed also the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report on the Joint Meetings of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination; and it requested the Secretary-General to include in the annual review report of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination a section on the measures taken or envisaged to implement the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and of the Joint Meetings of the two Committees.

At its twenty-ninth session, the Committee recommended that implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade be one of the topics considered in the twenty-sixth series of Joint Meetings of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, in 1991. The Committee felt that "Environment" might be a good choice as a second subject for discussion in the Joint Meetings in 1991. However, it decided to give further consideration to the matter at its thirty-first session in the light of developments in that field.

At same session, the Committee decided to review the duration of the Joint Meetings at its thirty-first session in the light of the experience gained from such meetings in 1989 and 1990.

At its thirty-first session, the Committee will have before it the report of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination on the Register of Development Activities of the United Nations System.

Documentation

Annual overview report of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination for 1990 (E/1991/42)

Report of the Chairmen of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination on the twenty-fifth series of the Joint Meetings of the two Committees (E/1990/123)

Report of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination on the Register of Development Activities of the United Nations System (E/1991/44)

(b) Implementation of the system-wide medium-term plan for women and development

The Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 1989/105, requested the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chairman of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, to report to the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and the Council, biennially in odd-numbered years beginning in 1991, on the extent to which the system-wide medium-term plan for women and development had been incorporated into the programmes and programme budgets of the organizations of the United Nation system, using as a baseline indicator the cross-organizational programme analysis of the activities of the United Nations system for the advancement of women (E/1989/19 and Corr.1).

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the system-wide medium-term plan for women and development (E/1991/16)

5. Reports of the Joint Inspection Unit

At its twenty-fourth session, the Committee decided that reports of the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) would, in future, be reviewed first by the Committee as to programming aspects and that, to that end, the Committee should be authorized to examine them even without the written comments of the Secretary-General if they were not available; the comments of the Secretary-General could be made orally to the Committee. That decision was approved by the General Assembly in resolution 39/238. The Committee further decided that at its organizational meeting each year, it would select the JIU reports to be considered at its regular session of that year from a list of titles to be made available by the Secretariat, including the titles of reports projected for the following two years.

In resolution 45/237, the General Assembly encouraged the Joint Inspection Unit to continue to take into account the following measures in order to enhance further the usefulness of its reports to the governing bodies of the participating organizations: (a) to take a more selective approach in drawing up its work programme to give greater attention to management, budgetary and administrative issues, including those identified by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions in its report on the administrative and budgetary co-ordination of the United Nations with the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency, and by the Board of Auditors in its audit opinions and reports, as well as those areas of the United Nations system undergoing reform; (b) to make every possible effort to issue its reports well in advance of the meetings of the governing bodies of its participating organizations, in particular the General Assembly, and of the relevant subsidiary bodies, to ensure that the comments of the

Secretary-General and those of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, where pertinent, are issued in accordance with existing regulations for the timely receipt of documentation; (c) to make every effort to shorten its reports and to include in them a summary of its recommendations in order to facilitate the consideration of its reports; (d) to provide a more detailed commentary in its annual report to the General Assembly on the implementation of its recommendations by the United Nations and by the other participating organizations of the Unit; and (e) to concentrate on specific and practical operational problems and to address more precisely defined questions.

In the same resolution, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to review, in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993, the research and analytical capacity of the secretariat of the Joint Inspection Unit in order to enhance its performance, with due respect to the statute of the Unit.

6. Provisional agenda for the thirty-second session of the Committee

Pursuant to paragraph 3 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1894 (LVII), the Committee will have before it the draft provisional agenda for its thirty-second session, with an indication of he documents to be submitted under each agenda item and the legislative authority for their preparation, in order to enable the Committee to consider those documents from the point of view of their contribution to the work of the Committee, their urgency and their relevance in the light of the current situation.

In resolution 1979/41, the Council decided that the provisional agenda for its subsidiary bodies, together with the list of requested documentation, should be submitted to the Council for review, in order, inter alia, to establish greater consistency between the documentation of those bodies and the overall documentation requested by the Council and other subsidiary bodies and greater consistency between the requests for documentation and the medium-term plan and the programme budget.

The Council, in resolution 1989/114 on further measures for the implementation of its resolution 1988/77 on the revitalization of the Economic and Social Council, urged its subsidiary bodies to implement fully Council resolution 1979/41 in submitting to the Council, for consideration, their provisional agendas together with the list of requested documentation, with a view to ensuring greater consistency in requests for documentation and improving reporting procedures. In this connection, it will be recalled that the Council has urged all its subsidiary bodies to exercise the utmost restraint in making requests of the Secretary-General for new reports and studies and to implement fully the decisions of the Council and the General Assembly with respect to the control and limitation of documentation (see Council resolutions 1981/83 and 1982/50).

In decision 1983/163, the Council requested the Secretary-General to bring to the attention of intergovernmental and expert bodies, before decisions were adopted, any request for documentation that exceeded the ability of the Secretariat to prepare and process on time and within its approved resources and to draw the attention of intergovernmental bodies to areas where duplication of documentation

was likely to occur and/or where opportunities for integrating or consolidating documents that dealt with related or similar themes might exist, with a view to rationalizing documentation.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat on the provisional agenda and documentation for the thirty-second session of the Committee

7. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its thirty-first session

The report of the Committee on its thirty-first session will be submitted to the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1991 and the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session.

Attention is drawn to Economic and Social Council resolution 1989/114, in which the Council requested its subsidiary bodies to highlight policy recommendations and decisions resulting from their deliberations for consideration and appropriate action by the Council.